

FOIA Officer:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I request that a copy of the following documents, or documents containing the following information, be provided to me: (1) Copy of the log of correspondence between the offices of elected state politicians (state Representatives, state Senators, Governor, Attorney General) from the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarter and its regional offices (specifically, regional offices 3, 6, 8). (2) Copy of the log of correspondence between the following state environmental agencies and the EPA headquarter and its regional offices (specifically, regional offices 3, 6, 8): Arkansas Department of Energy and the Environment, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

By log (often referred to as the "congressional correspondence log" by other federal agencies) I mean the document that the Office of the EPA uses to track all official correspondence with state elected politicians or state agencies initiated by the state officials and including responses from the EPA to state elected politicians including details such as the particular state official involved, the nature or summary of the correspondence, and the dates of the correspondence. I request this information for the time period from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2020. If information on these dates is not available, I request a copy of the existing records for the time period available between January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2020.

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am affiliated with a major research and educational institution, New York University, as a professor. I am a professor at the university, and an expert on research on political institutions, bureaucracy, and regulations. This request is made for a scholarly and scientific purpose and not for commercial use. I request a waiver of all fees for this request based on the category for educational/noncommercial scientific institutions. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest. The records concern the operations or activities of the Government by documenting how state-level politicians communicate with a federal agency to influence how policy is implemented in their districts, states, and regions, as well as how state and federal environmental agencies communicate to implement the policy. Understanding how and the frequency with which state politicians attempt to influence how a federal agency implements policy and how much communication flow exists between state and federal environmental agencies contributes to the general public's understanding of how the government works for the public interest. While the general public may have knowledge about how it is represented through a federal agency's regulation and rulemaking, they are less aware of how their state legislators and state bureaucrats can represent them through ensuring that policy is implemented in a way that is beneficial to constituents. Furthermore, it is important for the public to understand how responsive federal agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, are to individual members of state legislators or a request from state environmental agencies. The information being disclosed is new. This type of representation has not been studied and there is very little awareness of it. This information could clarify current understanding of the influence if individual state legislators and state bureaucratic agencies outside of the lawmaking process or state policymaking. Additionally, while currently much of government education focuses on lawmaking, this requested information will provide content for educating students and the public about the role of

federal agencies in the government and how federal agencies interact with members of state legislators and other state bureaucracy and the consequences for policy implementation.

As a professor and scholar with academic and other publications at the New York University, I have the ability and intention to digest and disseminate the information to both the general public and a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject. I have the necessary expertise to analyze and comprehend the data, both through my statistical and methodological skills from my academic work. I plan to use the requested information for research including academic and other publication in order to contribute to the public's knowledge about the interactions between state politicians/state bureaucrats and the federal bureaucracy. Additionally, knowledge gained from the requested information will be used in classroom lectures and discussion sections for educational purposes. Having taught undergraduates at New York University, I have the experience necessary to incorporate the information into the classroom content. Additionally, I plan to send my analyses of the information to both academic and non-academic interest groups for further dissemination. These groups can use the information and my analyses to gain understanding of how state government can represent their interests through non-legislative strategies. I have experience disseminating knowledge relating to participation, representation, and civic engagement and am qualified to do so. Finally, I plan to make these documents available to the public at Harvard University's Dataverse webpage. Harvard Dataverse is a repository for research data. As this is a facility open to the general public, many people will thereby have access to the information contained in the materials which are the subject of this request. Further, public nature of Harvard Dataverse as a resource will foster openness in government, as well as its role in facilitating the teaching and research occurring at the academia, will be well served. This plan to disseminate knowledge gained from the requested information to a broad audience of persons interested in the subject (academics and non-academics interested in legislator-bureaucratic relations and representation and environmental regulation, the general public, and undergraduate students as well as graduate students) qualifies me for the fee waiver.

I request that the information I seek be provided in electronic format via email.

I would be happy to talk with you at any time at 917-817-2124 or [hyou@nyu.edu](mailto:hyou@nyu.edu). While I am willing to communicate via phone when and if needed, please restrict all communication with me to email so that I may keep a copy of our correspondence for my records.

Thank you for your help and consideration. I sincerely appreciate your public service!

Sincerely,

Dr. Hye Young You